



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: James Holt
Title: Over-Voltage Protection Circuit
Application No.: 10/027,708
Filing Date: December 19, 2001
Examiner: Gary L. Laxton
Group Art Unit: 2838
Confirmation No.: 4177
Law Office: Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

These are comments to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowability dated November 4, 2003 for the above-referenced Application.

Applicants respectfully wish to clarify the reasons for allowance.

With regard to Claims 1-8, the prior art of record does not disclose or teach:

A circuit for providing a regulated voltage comprising:
a switching voltage regulator, comprising:

an upper transistor connected to an input voltage from a voltage source, the upper transistor having a control terminal;

a lower transistor connected to the upper transistor, the lower transistor having a control terminal; and

a voltage regulator controller connected to receive the regulated voltage, the voltage regulator controller operable to generate a first control signal applied to the control terminal of the upper transistor, and further operable to generate a second control signal applied to the control terminal of the lower transistor; and

a voltage protection circuit comprising:

an over-voltage detector circuit powered by the regulated output voltage operable to detect an over-voltage condition and further operable to generate an over-voltage detected signal, wherein the over-voltage detected signal causes the lower transistor to draw sufficient current from the voltage source that the over-voltage condition is abated.

With regard to Claims 9-11, the prior art of record does not disclose or teach:

A circuit for protecting against over-voltage comprising:

an over-voltage detector powered by a regulated output voltage generated by the circuit operable to generate an over-voltage detected signal;

an amplifier powered by the regulated voltage operable to generate a trigger signal in response to the over-voltage detected signal; and

a thyristor adapted to clamp the regulated voltage in response to the trigger signal.

With regard to Claims 14-15, the prior art of record does not disclose or teach:

A method for protecting against over-voltage conditions comprising:

providing a circuit for protecting against over-voltage;

providing an over-voltage detector powered by a regulated output voltage generated by the circuit operable to generate an over-voltage detected signal;

providing an amplifier powered by the regulated output voltage operable to generate a trigger signal in response to the over-voltage detected signal; and
providing a thyristor operable to clamp the regulated voltage in response to the trigger signal.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.:

EV 305 257 182 US

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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February 4, 2004

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Dear Sir:

Applicants submit three (3) sheets of formal drawings, consisting of Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, in the above-named application. If there are any questions regarding these drawings, please call the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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